

extremity, beaks, and dorsal edge of a purplish tint possessing a somewhat metallic lustre; the interior is of a light purple tint and somewhat shining lustre; the ribs are numerous, about 34 in number, and prominent, and the surface between them is striated longitudinally and impressly punctate, the striæ extending across one-half the space, the other half being occupied with the punctations.

*Hab.* India, *Capt. Boys.* Brit. Mus.

Sp. 8. *ESTHERIA SIMILIS*, Nobis. (Pl. XI. f. 7, 7a, 7b, 7c.)

Carapace-valves elongate obovate; anterior extremity considerably broader than posterior, which is rather narrow; beaks very prominent, placed very near anterior extremity; carapace opaque; colour externally and internally the same as in last; the ribs are numerous and prominent, the first 7 or 8 rather broader than the rest, smooth, and flattish; the remainder sharply prominent, and having on their surface a row of sharp angular beads; the surface between the ribs is deeply striated, the striæ extending nearly quite across the space. This species differs from the preceding in being smaller, more elongate in proportion; in having the posterior extremity considerably narrower and sharper, and the beaks nearer anterior extremity, and in having the ribs beaded.

*Hab.* India, *Capt. Boys.* Brit. Mus.

Sp. 9. *ESTHERIA TETRACERA*.

*Syn. Limnadia tetracera*, Krynicki, Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, 1830, 176. t. 7. f. 1, 2. M. Edwards, Hist. Nat. Crust. iii. 363. No. 3.

*Isaura tetracera*, Joly, Ann. Sc. Nat. 2nd ser. xviii.

Carapace-valves broadly obovate; anterior extremity broader than posterior, which is obtusely rounded; beaks prominent, very near anterior extremity.

Not having seen this species I cannot describe the structure of the carapace.

Krynicki describes this species as a *Limnadia*, but at the same time remarks "that it ought to form the type of a new genus."

*Hab.* Neighbourhood of Charkow, Russia, *Krynicki*.

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June 12, 1849.

W. Spence, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

The Secretary reported that the youngest female Bison had given birth to a calf in the Menagerie on the 6th inst. after an apparent gestation of 270 days. A fine male example of *Macropus major* had been added to the collection by purchase.





SIREX GIGAS.

Letters had been received from Richard Hill, Esq., W. C. Kelaart, Esq., R. J. Bouchier, Esq., and Dr. Bland, Corr. Members.

Mr. Hill's letter was dated Spanish Town, May 8, and communicated to the Secretary that his notice of the desire of the Society to possess living specimens of the Reptiles of Jamaica, had secured promises of aid from all parts of the island; and information had been received of several examples of the Yellow Snake, Ignana, and other forms being already in confinement for the purpose of being transmitted to England.

Mr. Kelaart's letter was dated San Fernando, Trinidad, May 6. Among other interesting intelligence he states that he has "no doubt of the existence of a large Red Monkey, and according to some, of a white one also, inhabiting the woods of this island; and although no specimens have yet been procured, the promises of several of the proprietors give hope of a speedy solution of the question as to what species these animals may belong."

Mr. Gray exhibited, from the collection of J. H. Hora, Esq., a female specimen of *Ovis Gmelini*, from Tauri in the Persian Gulf.

It was peculiar for the large size of the tuft of hair over the orbital gland, which was closely matted together by the secretion from it; the nostrils are surrounded by a distinct narrow callous edge; the callosity occupies the space between the nostrils and a narrow central band down to the lips; the body is covered with very close soft hair, and on the haunches and other parts where the hair is longer, it retains its softness, but approaches to the quill-like character of the Roebuck; the upper part of the body is ochraceous yellow, the lower part paler and whitish; the head is paler yellowish, and the hairs on the forehead and face are tipped with whitish.

The following paper was read:—

1. ON THE VARIATION IN THE TEETH OF THE CRESTED SEAL, *CYSTOPHORA CRISTATA*, AND ON A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS FROM THE WEST INDIES. BY J. E. GRAY, ESQ., F.R.S. ETC.

In a paper which I lately communicated to the Society on the genus *Bradypus*, I drew their attention to some variations in the form of the lower jaw, which were not accompanied by any appreciable difference in the external appearance of the specimens; I now wish to bring before the Society some variations which I have observed in the teeth of the different skulls of the Crested Seal which I have received from Greenland. I consider it of more importance to record these variations, as the formation of the teeth in the family of Seals has been considered as affording one of the best characters for the distinction of the species.

Several zoologists have considered the Crested Seal of the northern and the Proboscis Seal of the southern hemisphere as belonging to the same genus; but though there are several characters which are common to both, they are very easily distinguished.